



MEDIA RELEASE

Up-Skirt Video Voyeur Arrested

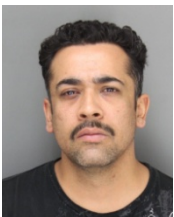
SANTA BARBARA, CA – December 14, 2012

Sijifredo Sotelo, age 37, of Santa Barbara was arrested for invasion of privacy with a concealed camera, a misdemeanor.

On September 4, 2012, at 3:00 p.m., a 30-year old Santa Barbara resident was eating lunch at a restaurant on the 1200 block of State Street when he saw the suspect, later identified as Sotelo, surreptitiously taking photographs or video of a female pedestrian's undergarments or intimate body parts with a small camera that he had concealed in the palm of his hand. It was apparent to the witness that the pedestrian was unaware that Sotelo was following her and that she was being filmed without her knowledge or consent. Realizing that he was observing a crime, the witness briefly followed Sotelo and used his own camera to take three photographs of the suspect. The witness later flagged down Santa Barbara Police Department Traffic Officer Scott Naganuma and reported the incident.

The case was assigned to SBPD Crimes Against Persons Detective Charlie Katsapis for follow-up investigation. Upon reviewing with other detectives in his detail the photographs taken by the witness, Detective Mike Claytor and Detective Bryan Jensen both recognized Sotelo from a similar case in 2009 where he was arrested for taking up-skirt photographs of women on State Street. Detective Katsapis obtained an arrest warrant for Sotelo for invasion of privacy with a concealed camera and a search warrant for his residence on the 800 block of Veronica Springs Road.

On December 13, 2012, at 11:27 a.m., Detective Katsapis and Detective Brian Larson arrested Sotelo at his residence and searched his room. Among the evidence seized were three small cameras and an SD memory card. At the Santa Barbara Police Department Detective Larson reviewed the contents of the memory card and found that it contained 423 video files and 1 still image of the legs, undergarments, and intimate body parts of female victims, taken as they walked in public places, apparently without consent. Many of the files were created in succession, depicting the same victims being followed over the distance of several blocks. The detectives are now in the process of trying to identify victims. Anyone who believes they might be a victim in this case is asked to contact Detective Katsapis at (805) 897-2344 or ckatsapis@sbpd.com.



Sijifredo Sotelo was booked at the Santa Barbara County Jail on the aforementioned warrant with a bail amount of \$2,500.00.

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